

**Old Growth/Biodiversity Stewardship Public Advisory Team  
2 November 2001  
Initial meeting flip-chart notes**

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**Stated positions/concerns from participating organizations  
(in no particular order)**

Ruffed Grouse Society

Need to determine how to accomplish goals  
How big is big enough?  
Meet biodiversity guidelines, such as disturbance-dependent sites  
What areas are already protected & connected?

Michigan Nature Association

All conservation associations essentially have similar goals  
Need core areas, buffer areas, and corridors that include not-for-profit and private lands (i.e., broader land inclusion)  
Concerned about process, but looking forward to being involved

Lake States Lumber Association

Need consensus on OG/BS definition (especially by species)  
How will OG/BS designation affect an entire industry (\$, people, communities)?  
How will private landowners be affected, especially those who border OG/BS state land?  
What percent of state land will be involved?

Michigan Association of Timbermen

The plan has merit, has had lots of work done so far  
Concerned with connection to on-the-ground management activities  
Species succession—how will it be dealt with in relation to native species?  
How big should OG/BS blocks be? Examine on regional, local or other basis relative to species  
Quantitatively, how much OG/BS will there be? Concerned about disproportionate amount of OG/BS

The Nature Conservancy

Supportive of OG/BS process, much of it overlaps TNC position  
Difficult to translate to on-the-ground applications  
Disturbance-oriented species—where do they fit?  
No clear goal for OG/BS  
Criteria and guidelines are not clearly defined  
Concerned about representation of ecosystems/LTAs  
Functionality, amount criterion a concern—shouldn't be a predetermined amount

Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Optimistic about process going forward  
Generally supportive, but how much is enough?  
Do we have current info on-the-ground (esp. USFS)?  
How will OG/BS be managed over the long term?  
What recreation limitations will there be?  
OG/BS education needs to be directed to the public

### Sierra Club

Eager to see process move in a timely manner  
There's merit to Biodiversity Stewardship, going beyond just Old Growth  
Need to flesh out representation beyond LTA level  
Inventory/map exemplary native forest sites  
Public involvement in design teams is important  
Identify sites that should be set aside until OG/BS process is finished  
Search for direction from other technical sources outside MDNR, etc.  
Value of field staff, must recognize their contributions  
Concerned about facts and figures cited in document, provide references  
Reexamine definition of OG/BS  
OG/BS basis for true sustainability  
Timeliness...get this done soon  
Need to provide interim direction to field during compartment reviews  
Need current maps, make them public and freely accessible

### Mackinac Forest Council

Happy process is underway  
Lacks strong field personnel guidelines  
No mechanism for large scale landscape decisions  
Envision (desire) contiguous blocks instead of spiderweb network of OG/BS lands

### Huron-Manistee National Forest

We share your ecstasy ☺  
They've found that the larger the scale, the less detail needed  
Process needs to fit the existing landscape  
Terminology needs to be clarified  
How much is enough?  
Allowing for disturbance  
Distribution of property ownership  
Large blocks important in some areas, others not  
Mesh designs (between state and federal systems) to some extent

### Michigan Forest Association

Appreciate being involved  
Dedicated to stewardship, from forest products to non-consumptive activities  
OG/BS is important as ecological study  
Support existence of remaining OG stands as examples of areas "unaffected by the hand of Man"  
Old Growth does not appropriately define second growth stands  
Concerned about private property rights  
Clear boundaries need to be delineated

### Timber Producers, Lakes States Lumber,

Desire a fair plan, need to emphasize balance

### Michigan Forest Products Council

Potential social and economic impact on industry  
Define land types that OG/BS is concerned with  
Examine existing conditions—are certain land types already protected?  
Large blocks of timber/forests can be susceptible to disease/pest problems  
Balance of types needed

Change is a factor, provide a more balanced forest for a variety of species  
May wildlife migration and movement patterns be interrupted?  
This process must be pushed forward, need product from the OG/BS PAT  
Need overall goal, objectives  
Clarify terms, definitions  
Need to target process and objectives of that process  
Clarify distinction between OG/BS and other reserves, protected areas  
Without clearer definitions, it'll be difficult or impossible to apply OG/BS on-the-ground

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### Common/General Issues

- 1.) Clarify goal
- 2.) Clarify terminology, definitions
- 3.) Revise, devise criteria and guidelines

#### Other ideas & thoughts:

Clarify relationships with other land holders (private non-industrial, private industrial, not-for-profit organizations)  
Determine role of Public Advisory Team after completion of Design & Criteria Phase  
Keep Selection Phase in mind while reviewing design & criteria  
Keep MDNR field staff informed of progress

#### Revised goal statement:

*The goal of the OG/BS program is to (functionally) represent on a portion of state lands, in (cooperation with) other land (ownerships), through a combination of OG management and Biodiversity Stewardship, native (Michigan) ecosystems.*

#### Terms that need to be clarified:

*Old Growth & Old Growth management*  
*Biodiversity*  
*Stewardship*  
*Natural vs. Native*  
*Native ecosystems*  
*Functional*  
*Restore vs. represent*

#### Rough agenda for (Friday) November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting in Grayling:

- 1) Finalize goal statement
- 2) Define and clarify terminology
- 3) Determine completeness of existing criteria
- 4) Start "at the top" (Appendix E: Old Growth Criteria)